



## Newsheet of the Northamptonshire Archaeological Society

### THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL NETWORK

The Planning Department of Northamptonshire County Council has recently been in contact with various archaeological groups and societies, to establish a network of archaeological volunteers that will assist in monitoring building and other development. Although much of this work is now undertaken by the County Archaeological Unit, a significant numbers of developments cannot be visited and their number is likely to increase. The Archaeological Network is therefore intended to have two primary functions.

Firstly, to monitor developments that Northamptonshire Heritage is unable to visit and to report back to the Planning Department if anything of archaeological importance has come to light. Secondly it should provide a route by which information, such as the unexpected exposure of important finds, can be passed to the Planning Department so that appropriate action can be taken. To this end, it is proposed that those who wish to take part in the scheme, be organised in three levels, Co-ordinators, Field workers and Reporters.

Co-ordinators will be experienced independent archaeologists, responsible for specific areas within the county. They will act as the official representatives of the Planning Department when visiting sites. They will arrange the monitoring of developments, visiting of sites and the conducting of rescue archaeology either in person or through local Field workers.

Field workers need not necessarily have had considerable experience of practical archaeology, but should be prepared to help the Co-ordinators in the field. They will receive training in the basic skills of rescue archaeology from experienced local archaeologists and members of the Planning Department. It is eventually hoped that Field workers will be able to operate independently and eventually take on the role of a Co-ordinator. We would be particularly interested to hear from anyone prepared to volunteer relevant work skills such as surveying, drawing or photography.



Reporters are to be the eyes and ears of the network, passing on information to the co-ordinators concerning the progress of developments and any unexpected archaeological discoveries in their locality. They need not have any specific archaeological experience and would not necessarily be expected to actually work on site.

Given past experience it is though unlikely that any of the above would be called upon more than once or twice a year. If you are interested in helping to safeguard the archaeology of Northamptonshire by acting in any of the above capacities, please fill out the attached form and return it to: Mark Curteis (N.A.S. Secretary), Northampton Museum, Guildhall Road, Northampton NN1 1DP.

#### NORTHAMPTON MUSEUMS COLLECTION POLICY

On the 25th of March, the Chronicle and Echo reported that Northampton Museum would, during the period 1994 - 97, no longer be accepting any further material from the rest of the county. This takes place against a background of the proposed reorganisation of local government in the county. There are obvious repercussions for archaeology in Northamptonshire since it means that there is now no longer a county repository for archaeological material. In the short term, the museum has said that it will continue to provide a home for some finds from outside the borough but only in exceptional circumstances.

The roots of this decision lie in local politics and finance. The museum has always been wholly funded by the borough of Northampton, without any contribution from the County Council, although the museum has collected material throughout the county. What has brought the problem to a head is the prospect of finding a permanent home for the vast number of finds from the Raunds Project. At present the museum store contains about 6000 boxes of finds with space left for a further 800. The finds from Raunds alone will occupy the space of 3000 boxes. The questions that has still to be resolved is, where will all this material be stored and who will pay for it?

#### THE N.A.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on October 27th at 7.30 p.m. in the University Centre on Barrack Road. Brian Dix has kindly agreed to give a lecture on Garden Archaeology.

#### N.A.S. SUMMER FIELD MEETING

There will be guided tour on July 26th entitled, "Old Northampton, Buildings and Tales from All Saints to the Castle" given by Mr Brain Jiggins. Those wishing to take part should meet outside the Tourist Centre, on Guildhall Road at 7.30 p.m.

PLANNING AND  
TRANSPORTATION

04 JUL 1994

27 GUILDHALL ROAD